

FY-2001 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:
Colorado's Instream Flow Protection

Project #: 70

Lead Agency: Colorado Water Conservation Board

Submitted by: Randy Seaholm
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Category:

- ☒ Ongoing project
- ☐ Ongoing-revised project
- ☐ Requested new project
- ☐ Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding Source:

- ☐ Annual funds
- ☐ Capital funds
- ☒ Other (in-kind services)

I. Title of Proposal:

Colorado's Instream Flow Protection

II. Relationship to RIPRAP:

A. Colorado River Mainstem Activity Item Numbers: I.A.3.a(1), I.A.3.a(4), I.A.3.b(1), I.A.3.b(4), I.A.4.a(2)(a)-(c), I.A.4.b(2)(a)-(c), I.B.3.a, I.B.3.d, and I.B.4.b(1)-(3).
B. Yampa River Activity Item Numbers: I.A.4.b(3), I.B.2, I.B.3.a, I.B.3.d, I.b.a.(1)-(3), I.B.5, I.C.3.a, I.C.3.d, and I.C.4.a.(1)-(3).

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

To comply with the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin through protection of instream flows.

IV. Study Goals, Objectives, End Product:

The study objective, goal and end product of the CWCB efforts are to obtain instream flow water right decrees for the benefit of the endangered fish.

V. Study Area:

Colorado and Yampa river basins in Colorado.

VI. Study Methods/Approach:

Recent changes to the existing instream flow filings (Case Nos. 5-95CW296 & 595CW297 on the Colorado River, and Case Nos. 6-95CW155 & 6-95CW156 on the Yampa River) occurred at the January and May 1999 CWCB meetings. As a result of concerns expressed by the Service and other Program participants, the CWCB withdrew the baseflow and recovery flow instream flow filings on the Colorado and Yampa rivers. The Colorado Division of Wildlife staff has been instructed to develop new flow recommendations. This process is anticipated to be completed by 2002. Until the new flow recommendations are submitted and approved, the CWCB will review CDOW activities and performance of the 15-Mile Reach PBO and determine the need for instream flow protection needs.

VII. Task Description and Schedule:

The CWCB staff will continue to work with the Attorney General's Office, Board Members, Colorado Division of Wildlife, USF&WS and Recovery Program participants to stay current with Recovery Program needs. Future filings on the Colorado and Yampa rivers will not be pursued until CDOW has developed a new process for making ISF recommendations and provide recommendations based on that process. Furthermore, the need for future filings will be based on the success of the activities identified in the 15-Mile Reach PBO. The following task descriptions are provided for the river basins originally scheduled to have flow recommendations reviewed or filed for during the 2000 federal fiscal year.

A. Colorado River

The Board and Division staffs will work closely to develop recommendations for base flows on the Colorado River. End products such as scientific review and Notices of Intent to Appropriate for the Colorado River mainstem from Rifle to the Roller Dam and Roller Dam to the 15 Mile Reach are on hold until new flow recommendations are developed by the CDOW and approved by the Recovery Program and CWCB.

B. Yampa River below Little Snake River

The study objectives, goals and end products of Board and Division staff efforts on the Yampa River are to develop flow recommendations and obtain water right decrees for instream flows. Board staff will continue to work with the Attorney General's Office, Board Members, Colorado Division of Wildlife, USF&WS, and Recovery Program participants. Specific actions are on hold until the CDOW staff develops new flow recommendations and they are approved by the Recovery Program and CWCB. The CWCB's involvement with the Yampa Management Plan will continue.

C. Little Snake River

The study objectives, goals and end products of Board and Division staff efforts on the Little Snake River are to develop flow recommendations and possibly obtain water right

decreases for instream flows. Board staff will continue to work with the Attorney General's Office, Board Members, Colorado Division of Wildlife, USF&WS, and Recovery Program participants. Specific actions are on hold until the CDOW staff develops new flow recommendations and they are approved by the Recovery Program and CWCB. Recommendations for the Little Snake River will be incorporated into the Yampa Management Plan.

D. Gunnison River

Board staff will participate with the Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife in preliminary discussions and scientific review of the instream flow recommendations to be provided by the Service on the Gunnison River as part of the Aspinall Section 7 Consultation process. Draft recommendations are expected during calendar year 2000.

Board staff will also participate in the consideration of reserved water rights for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

VIII. FY-2001 Work:

CWCB¹

Colorado River -	\$ 5,000
Yampa	\$ 5,000
Little Snake River -	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
	\$12,000

TOTAL COLORADO = \$ 12,000 (in-kind services)

FY-2002 Work:

- Deliverables/Due Dates

To be determined

- Budget estimate

To be determined

IX. Budget Summary:

Because the CWCB and CDOW will be working on the flow recommendation issue, the cost estimates provided in this Scope of Work may need revision as plans begin to develop.

FY2001	\$12,000
FY2002	To be determined

¹ Includes Attorney General's funding in CWCB Budget

FY2003 To be determined

Total: \$12,000 (in-kind services for FY 2001)

X. Reviewers: Not Applicable

XI. References: Not Applicable